## REMARKS

Claims 1-11 remain pending in this application with claims 1, 2 and 7-10 being amended by this response. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification and more specifically on page 11, lines 10-16 and Figs. 3 and 4. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by the amended claims.

## Rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cheng (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/005130 A1).

The present claimed arrangement provides a method for monitoring audio/video connections (hereinafter called "AV connections") which have been set up in a network of distributed stations. The distributed stations are networked with one another via at least one of a wire-free and a wire bus connection. At least two types of stations exist in the network. One type of station is at least one control device for initiating, controlling and removing the AV connection from the AV connections. The other type of station is a controlled device being at least one of an AV server device and an AV renderer device. Between at least two controlled devices, the AV connection can be set up by the at least one control device. When the at least one control device is in a standby mode, a first device of the at least two controlled devices monitors the AV connection to determine whether a second device of the at least two controlled devices, which is AV connected to the first device, has sent a logging-off message. When the logging-off message is detected, the first device autonomously ends, without an operation from at least one control device, the AV connection with the second device.

Claim 1 claims within a network, two different types of stations exist in the network. The first type of station called a control device performs the acts of, "initiating, controlling and removing" AV connections. The other type of station called a controlled device is "an AV server device" and/or "an AV rendering device", where the AV connections between controlled devices are controlled via the control device.

When the at least one control device is in a standby mode, the controlled devices cannot communicate with the control device. Therefore, the present claimed arrangement advantageously provides that a first device of the at least two controlled devices monitors the AV connection to determine whether a second device AV connected to the first device has sent a logging-off message. When the logging-off message is detected, the first device autonomously ends the AV connection with the second device without an operation from the control device. Cheng neither discloses nor suggests features of the present claimed arrangement.

Cheng describes supporting the communication of audio-video information, and other time-sensitive information, via UPnP networks. The UPnP architecture is augmented to include: a resource management module that supports multiple contenders for a single device or its sub-units without races or hazards, a path manager that provides source-to-sink path management, and an action manager that enables A/V applications to schedule activities. Together, the resource manager and path manager ensure path validity, integrity, and quality of service. The resource manager is configured to manage device resources that are distributed in heterogeneous networks, such as resources distributed in networks using mixed Ethernet, 1394, 802.11, USB, HPNA. The path manager is configured to manage network resources that are distributed in heterogeneous networks. The resource manager and the path manager are also configured to ensure that a path across network boundaries is valid. Scheduling actions are the responsibility of each action manager, which acts as an agent of the application, and is a client of the resource manager and the path manager. The resource manager and the path manager are configured as an integral part of a UPnP framework, and as such, communicates with applications via HTTP messages (*see* Abstract).

Cheng is concerned with "provide[ing] a UPnP network management system that controls multiple-contender access to devices and sub-units of devices" (paragraph [0009]). Cheng is not concerned with a situation where the "at least one control device is in a standby mode" as recited in claim 1 of the present arrangement. In the present claimed arrangement, when the "control device is in a standby mode," a second

controlled device cannot <u>inform</u> the control device when logging off. Because of this, "a first device of said at least two controlled devices monitors said AV connection to determine whether a second device of said at least two controlled devices, which is AV connected to said first device, has sent a logging-off message whereby when said logging-off message is detected, said first device autonomously ends, without an operation from said at least one control device, the AV connection with said second device." In this way, it is possible for the at least one control device to establish a new connection with one of the controlled devices when returning from the standby mode even though the devices could not directly communicate while the control device was in the standby mode. Contrary to the present claimed arrangement, in paragraph [0046] Cheng recites:

> "[A]n application or a UPnP system component, such as an action manager 310, issues a resource reservation request ... Every resource manager who receives a reservation request (referred to as an 'active manager' below) must ensure the validity of a path, and must participate in the all-or-none reservation process. For this reason, all requests such as RESERVE, RELEASE, SETUP, and TEARDOWN indicate the entire path along which the device and network resources are to be managed. A path is valid only if all the device resources along the path are reachable."

Therefore, the resources that make up a path are all checked for validity. The various requests from the resources in a path (i.e. RESERVE, RELEASE, etc.) are managed. However, Cheng is not concerned with and offers no solution for a situation where "at least one control device is in a standby mode" as recited in claim 1 of the present arrangement. Rather, Cheng only determines that a path is valid if all the device resources along the path are reachable. This is wholly unlike the present claimed arrangement in which when "at least one control device is in a standby mode ... a first device of said at least two controlled devices monitors said AV connection to determine whether a second device ... has sent a logging-off message whereby when said logging-off message is detected, said first device autonomously ends ... the AV connection with said second device."

Cheng is not concerned with and does not disclose or suggest "whether a second device of said at least two controlled devices, which is AV connected to said first device, has sent a logging-off message" and "when said logging-off message is detected, said first device autonomously ends, without an operation from said at least one control device, the AV connection with said second device" as recited in claim 1 of the present arrangement. Cheng only describes "an interface for receiving notification about the arrival or departure of a resource ... When the resource manager 320 receives a departure notification, it can either delete the entry, or mark the entry to indicate the departure of the resource. By marking the entry, the processing required to recreate the entry when the resource returns is avoided" (paragraph [0056]). However, Cheng does not disclose or suggest a situation where "said at least one control device is in a standby mode" as in the present claimed arrangement. When a device is in standby mode, the device is unable to receive any logoff messages. Cheng does not address the problem of a device not being able to log off "when said at least one control device is in a standby mode" at all. Therefore, Cheng cannot autonomously end "the AV connection with said second device" as recited in claim 1 of the present arrangement as Cheng is only able to mark an entry to indicate the departure of the resource when the resources are online and in communication with each other. To the contrary, in the present claimed arrangement, "when said at least one control device is in a standby mode, a first device of said at least two controlled devices monitors said AV connection to determine whether a second device of said at least two controlled devices, which is AV connected to said first device, has **sent a logging-off message** whereby when said logging-off message is detected, said first device **autonomously ends**, without an operation from said at least one control device, the AV connection with said second device." Cheng neither discloses nor suggests these features of the present claimed arrangement.

The Office Action on page 3 cites paragraphs [0027], [0037], [0056] and Fig. 3, reference no. 120 of Cheng as being relevant to the present claimed arrangement. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, paragraph [0027] of Cheng recites "facilitate[ing] efficient and effective transfer of audio-video information, or other

time-sensitive information among devices on heterogeneous networks." Paragraph [0037] recites:

> "an application is provided the option of managing resource reservation, path setting, and scheduling activities directly, or it can request the action manager 310 to manage these activities. By providing an action manager 310, the application can be free from the concerns of detailed resource management and path management. Preferably, network resources are allocated and the path is set up immediately prior to the time that an action is to take place, to maximize the use of network resources, although device resources can be reserved well before the effective time by the action manager 310, or the application."

Paragraph [0056] recites that, "When the resource manager 320 receives a departure notification, it can either delete the entry, or mark the entry to indicate the departure of the resource." These cited passages merely describe how the resource paths are managed. In the case of a departure notification, an entry can be deleted or marked as deleted. However, nowhere in these cited passages or elsewhere in Cheng is there suggestion or disclosure of "when said at least one control device is in a standby mode, a first device of said at least two controlled devices monitors said AV connection to determine whether a second device of said at least two controlled devices ... has sent a logging-off message" and "when said logging-off message is detected, said first device autonomously ends, without an operation from said at least one control device, the AV connection with said second device" as recited in claim 1 of the present arrangement. The departure notification in Cheng must be communicated only when the all parties in the path and the receiving source are online and able to communicate. Cheng is not able to "autonomously end ... the AV connection with said second device" in the case "when said at least one control device is in a standby mode" as recited in claim 1 of the present arrangement. Rather, any departure message is only communicated when all resources are online and in communication. Moreover, Fig. 3, reference no. 120 may include the various modules as argued in the Office Action on the bottom of page 3 to page 4. However, these modules are unable to "to determine whether a second device of said at least two controlled devices, which is AV connected to said first device, has sent a logging-off message whereby when said logging-off message is detected, said first device autonomously ends, without an operation from said at least one control

device, the AV connection with said second device" in the case "when said at least one control device is in a standby mode" as recited in claim 1 of the present arrangement.

In the "Response to Arguments" section on page 8 of the Office Action, it is argued that "the user control point (#161) is a separate module than control logic #120 which includes the path manager and database (330 and 335)." Applicant respectfully submits that the user control point, the control logic or any other element in Cheng does not disclose or suggest "when said at least one control device is in a standby mode, a first device of said at least two controlled devices monitors said AV connection to determine whether a second device of said at least two controlled devices, which is AV connected to said first device, has sent a logging-off message" and "when said logging-off message is detected, said first device autonomously ends, without an operation from said at least one control device, the AV connection with said second device" as recited in claim 1 of the present arrangement. Furthermore, paragraphs [0037], [0056] and Fig. 3, reference no. 120 cited in the Response to Arguments section has been addressed in the above arguments. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Cheng does not anticipate the features claimed in claim 1 of the present arrangement. Consequently, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore, these claims are considered patentable for the same reasons presented above with respect to claim 1. Consequently, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 7 includes similar features as independent claim 1 and is considered patentable over Cheng for the same reasons presented above with respect to claim 1. Consequently, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-11 are dependent on claim 7 and therefore, these claims are considered patentable for the same reasons presented above with respect to claims 1

and 7. Consequently, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is respectfully requested.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections, it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at the phone number below, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,
Ingo Hutter


By:     /Joel M. Fogelson/
        Joel M. Fogelson
        Reg. No. 43,613
        Tel. No. (609) 734-6809

Thomson Licensing, LLC
Patent Operations
PO Box 5312
Princeton, NJ 08543-5312
January 13, 2009